

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 01047 281900Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 LAB-04 MMO-04 SIL-01 PER-05 /027 W
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R 281416Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2141
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1047

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB BE JL
SUBJECT: RESPONSIBILITIES OF REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE FOR
BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS

REF: STATE 045560

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE. IN SOME RESPECTS ARRANGEMENTS
APPEAR SATISFACTORY. HOWEVER, WE HAVE CERTAIN RESERVATIONS.

2. WE UNDERSTOOD THAT DECISION FOR REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE
WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE RELATIVELY EQUAL COVERAGE TO
NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM, COUNTRIES OF COMPARABLE SIZE WHERE
LABOR ORGANIZATIONS ARE IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS AND ALSO HAVE GENUINE IMPACT ON GOVERNMENT POLICY.
WE ARE SKEPTICAL WHETHER PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS WILL PROVIDE
EXPANDED COVERAGE OF LABOR DEVELOPMENTS IN NETHERLANDS
THAT INSPECTORS IN REPORT PREPARED TWO YEARS AGO SUGGESTED
WAS DESIRABLE.

3. REQUIRMENT FOR REGIONAL ATTACHE TO VISIT NETHER-
LANDS AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE MONTHS FOR AT LEAST
ONE WEEK DOES NOT SEEM ADQUATE TO MAINTAIN CONTINUITY
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PAGE 02 THE HA 01047 281900Z

OF CONTACTS. WE WOULD PROPOSED MORE FREQUENT VISITS OF
SHORTER DURATION, FOR EXAMPLE EVERY SIX WEEKS.

4. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED BY BURDEN OF REPORTING
ASSIGNED TO PART-TIME LABOR REPORTING OFFICER. AS
DEPARTMENT AWARE WE HAVE TWO-MAN POLITICAL SECTION
ASSISTED BY FSL WHO AMONG OTHER DUTIES FOLLOWS LABOR

DEVELOPMENTS. FSL CAN CONTINUE TO CARRY RESPONSIBILITY FOR CERTAIN ROUTINE REPORTING. HOWEVER, THE SECOND POLITICAL OFFICER IN THE HAGUE SIMPLY CANNOT CARRY OUT HIS ASSIGNED POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND ALSO CARRY "PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING MOST OTHER LABOR DEVELOPMENTS" AND MAKE "SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL LABOR REPORT."

5. WE URGE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND LABOR TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE IN LIGHT OF ABOVE COMMENTS.
MCCLOSKEY

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